

If implemented, NPRM 02-230 would be an unfortunate blow to consumer rights of fair use. Would anyone consider passing regulations so that your toaster would only toast bread if it were deemed okay by the bread manufacturers? I sure hope not but that is analogous to what this regulation would effect.

I appreciate that content providers have valid concerns about copyright infringement of their works. However, my rights as a consumer to fair use -- and not limited to just media but to the physical hardware I own -- cannot be discounted. A different approach from NPRM 02-230 needs to be taken to address copyright concerns. For example, strengthen the fines and punishments for copyright violations.

Despite the appearance that some would have you believe otherwise, the air-waves are a PUBLIC resource. And despite the seeming assumption that every consumer is a criminal, I am not and the constitution ensures that every American is innocent until proven guilty.

I implore that you reject NPRM 02-230.